

COPY

## UFO POTPOURRI

John F. Schuessler  
9862 West Unser Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80129-6986  
[schuessler@mho.net](mailto:schuessler@mho.net)

No. 454

September 2004

### WASHINGTON, D.C. RADAR SIGHTING JULY 1952

I received the following report from a man I will call Harry (actual name on file), from Seabrook Texas on April 26, 1978. At the time I worked with his wife in Building 4 at the Johnson Space Center, in Houston, Texas. The report is about a portable radar unit that was active near Washington, D.C. during the July 1952 UFO sightings.

Harry was attached to the 360<sup>th</sup> Anti-aircraft Battalion located on the perimeter of Washington, D.C., about 20-25 miles from downtown. This was a tent unit, later converted to a semi-permanent installation. Harry was a radar officer for the 360<sup>th</sup>.

Late at night he was asleep at home and was called to come to the site. Andrews Air Force Base and several commercial airliners had observed UFOs.

As apart of their normal operation at the site they worked as a part of a network around Washington, D.C., with their reports going to a plotting center in Delaware. It was a common event to have targets on the screen, but they only tracked targets when they were so advised. Their unit used a Model 584 radar to control their 120 mm anti-aircraft guns. This radar wasn't much by today's standards, but it did track well and was satisfactory for its purpose. The code name for their unit was "Peter Fox 81."

This night an officer (Harry believes it was a colonel) from Andrews Air Force Base was directing the action on the network. The 360<sup>th</sup> was located near where some of the UFOs were seen. Their equipment had a ground range of 70,000 yards. They were able to track some 25 to 30 objects during a two-to-three hour period.

The weather wasn't the best. There were thunderstorms during the evening, clouds scattered around the area and mist in the air. Visibility at their location wasn't too good, but they did get solid radar lock-on targets and tracked them into the clouds.

Andrews Air Force Base was especially interested in how the objects acted around the clouds. They repeatedly questioned if the objects flew into, around, over or

under the clouds. Harry had the impression that Andrews AFB thought the UFOs were hiding in a large cloud and operating from that radar blind spot.

Harry listened in on the network as other units tracked objects and Andrews AFB vectored F-94 interceptor jets in the area. It seemed that the clouds were a continual problem.

Generally, the speed of the objects was fairly slow (100-200 mph). His unit would track an object until the clouds engulfed it and then they would lose it. After sweeping the area for awhile, they would find another target. He mentioned that at one time an F-94 was so close to an object that the blips merged on their radar screen.

At later dates, they tracked other objects, but they were nothing like this incident.

Before he returned home that night he was called in to an office and told to sign a statement that he would never reveal what he saw that night. As his discharge from the unit in 1953, he was called in and reminded again that he had signed the security statement. He admits that he was surprised by their intense interest in keeping it all quiet.

John Schuessler  
MUFON